



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
Acting United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, April 9, 2008

### **Military officer sentenced to 72 months on attempted kidnapping charges**

A military officer who attempted to kidnap his former girlfriend was sentenced today in federal court to 72 months in prison on attempted kidnapping charges.

United States District Court Judge Paul Magnuson also sentenced Timothy J. Pentaleri, 43, Belleville, Ill., to three years of supervised release April 9 in Minneapolis.

Pentaleri, a reserve officer in the United States Army, pleaded guilty Dec. 12, 2007, to one count of attempted kidnapping. The charge stems from Pentaleri's attempted kidnapping of a former girlfriend at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on June 29, 2007. He was indicted on Aug. 22, 2007.

Magnuson credited the quick work of law enforcement, particularly a Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police officer who observed Pentaleri's behavior. "The crime was horrible with great potential to be far worse," Magnuson added.

According to court documents, law enforcement officers observed a man, later identified as Pentaleri, suspiciously watching passengers in the baggage-claim area at the airport. When officers approached Pentaleri, he removed a wig, as well as a fake mustache and goatee, disposing them in a nearby garbage can. During a subsequent conversation with officers, Pentaleri put his hands in his pockets repeatedly, even though officers had asked him to refrain from doing so.

Officers subsequently patted him down for weapons, and found a knife, three cans of a mace-like irritant, a collapsible night stick commonly used by law enforcement and a stun gun. Pentaleri was eventually released that night and the items were seized by police.

Surveillance videos conducted by airport police showed Pentaleri parked a SUV in short-term parking. Upon inspection of the vehicle, officers found an Illinois license plate affixed to the front bumper and a stolen Minnesota plate affixed to the back bumper. Inside the vehicle,

officers spotted a large plastic liner, duct tape, flex cuffs regularly used by law enforcement to restrain suspects, rope and a shovel, among other things.

On June 30, 2007, police observed Pentaleri return to the airport, get into the SUV and begin to drive away. At that point, officers stopped and arrested him. During a subsequent search of Pentaleri's vehicle, officers found a duffel bag containing, among other things, a pillow case, sheets cut into strips, condoms, a turkey baster, KY jelly and a camera. Officers also found mail addressed to the intended victim, a map from the Internet showing directions from the airport to a road close to the woman's Minnesota residence, as well as papers detailing what appeared to be Pentaleri's plan to meet the woman at the airport and then abduct her.

This case was the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of State, the Diplomatic Security Service and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police Department with assistance from the St. Clair County Sheriff's Office (Illinois) and the U.S. military. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Erica H. MacDonald and W. Anders Folk.